Big Data Analysis (MA60306)

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Spring 2022-23, IIT Kharagpur

Lecture 25 March 31, 2023

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Metropolis Hastings algorithm¹

¹Murphy, K.P., 2012. Machine learning: a probabilistic perspective. MIT press - o a c

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Suppose the current state is \mathbf{x}_t and the next step is \mathbf{x}_{t+1} with probability $g(\mathbf{x}_{t+1} | \mathbf{x}_t)$, $g(\mathbf{x})$ is the proposal distribution

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If we choose the proposal independent of the old state i.e. if we set $g(\mathbf{x}_{t+1}|\mathbf{x}_t) = g(\mathbf{x}_{t+1})$ then it is called independence sampler

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Question How to choose $\pmb{\Sigma}$ and what is the acceptance probability?

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Recall Our original problem was sampling from a probability distribution

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{f(\mathbf{x})}{NC},$$

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Suppose NC is hard to compute (the method is obviously valid when we are able to compute NC)

Since the target distribution is the stationary and the MC is reversible, the balance equation is satisfied i.e. for any two states $\pi_i p_{ij} = \pi_j p_{ji}$.

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$$p(\mathbf{x}_i)p_{ij}=p(\mathbf{x}_j)p_{ji}$$

that is

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$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}_i)}{NC}g(\mathbf{x}_j|\mathbf{x}_i)a(\mathbf{x}_i\to\mathbf{x}_j)=\frac{f(\mathbf{x}_j)}{NC}g(\mathbf{x}_i|\mathbf{x}_j)a(\mathbf{x}_j\to\mathbf{x}_i)$$

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Next task is to decide the values of the accept probabilities from this equation

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Two cases arise: Case I. $\frac{f(\mathbf{x}_j)}{f(\mathbf{x}_i)} \cdot \frac{g(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_j)}{g(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_i)} < 1$

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$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Case I. } \frac{f(\mathbf{x}_j)}{f(\mathbf{x}_i)} \cdot \frac{g(\mathbf{x}_i | \, \mathbf{x}_j)}{g(\mathbf{x}_j | \, \mathbf{x}_i)} < 1 \\ \text{Case II. } \frac{f(\mathbf{x}_j)}{f(\mathbf{x}_i)} \cdot \frac{g(\mathbf{x}_i | \, \mathbf{x}_j)}{g(\mathbf{x}_j | \, \mathbf{x}_i)} > 1 \end{array}$$

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For Case I. set $a(\mathbf{x}_i \to \mathbf{x}_j) = \frac{f(\mathbf{x}_j)}{f(\mathbf{x}_i)} \cdot \frac{g(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_j)}{g(\mathbf{x}_j | \mathbf{x}_i)}$ and $a(\mathbf{x}_j \to \mathbf{x}_i) = 1$

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Question What about the convergence? What about the accuracy?

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Question What about the convergence? What about the accuracy? Question Does it solve our original problem? What is next? Gibbs Sampling

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Convergence and error bounds Since π is a stationary distribution, for any initial distribution μ and for any state $s_i \in S$, $P_{\mu}(X_t = s_i) \rightarrow \pi_i$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

In practice, the true distribution of X_t should closely approximate the target density π according to some measure

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Then another question is: what parameter of the transition matrix controls the speed of the convergence

Total variation metric: If f, g are absolutely continuous probability distributions on \mathbb{R}^d , $d \ge 1$ then

$$\rho(f,g) = \frac{1}{2} \int |f(\mathbf{x}) - g(\mathbf{x})| d\mathbf{x}$$

and for pmfs,

$$\rho(f,g) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} |f(i) - g(i)|$$

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Separation distance: Let f, g be two pmfs. Then

$$D(f,g) = \sup_{i} \left(1 - \frac{f(i)}{g(i)}\right)$$

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(the order matters) Chi-square distance: suppose f, g have common support S, then

$$\chi^2(f,g) = \sqrt{\int_S \frac{(f-g)^2}{g}}$$

Some more: Kolmogorov Metric, Hellinger Metric, Levy–Prokhorov Metric, Kullback–Leibler (KL) Distance, Wasserstein Distance, Bhattacharya Affinity, Rao's Geodesic Distances

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Recall: Suppose π is the statonary distribution corresponding to a transition matrix P with the initial distribution μ . Then for the distribution of X_t for some fixed t, the *i*th entry of $\mu^{(t)}(=\mu P^t)$ is

$$P_{\mu}(X_t = i) = \sum_{j \in S} P(X_0 = j)[P^t]_{ji} = \sum_{j \in S} \mu_k p_{ji}^{(t)}$$

where $p_{ji}^{(t)} = [P^t]_{ji}$.

The total variation distance between $\mu^{(t)}$ and the stationary distribution π with initial distribution μ is given by

$$\begin{split} p(\mu^{(t)},\pi) &= \sup_{A\subseteq S} \left| P_{\mu^{(t)}}(A) - P_{\pi}(A) \right| \\ &= \sup_{A} \left| \sum_{i\in A} \sum_{j\in S} \mu_{j} p_{ji}^{(t)} - \sum_{i\in A} \pi_{i} \right| \end{split}$$

The total variation distance between $\mu^{(t)}$ and the stationary distribution π with initial distribution μ is given by

$$\rho(\mu^{(t)}, \pi) = \sup_{A \subseteq S} \left| P_{\mu^{(t)}}(A) - P_{\pi}(A) \right|$$
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Review of nonnegative matrix theory²

Perron-Frobenius Theorem Let A be a positive $r \times r$ matrix. Then there exists an eigenvalue $\lambda_1 > 0$ with algebraic and geometric multiplicity one such that $\lambda_1 > |\lambda_j|$ for any other eigenvalue λ_j . The eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue λ_1 is positive.

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In particular, if A is stochastic then $\lambda_1 = 1$. Question What is your conclusion about the transition matrix?

Notation Let the initial distribution μ be a one-point distribution for some $x \in S$ i.e. $p(X_0 = x) = 1$ i.e. $p(X_0 \in S \setminus \{x\}) = 0$. Then we denote

$$P^t(x,A) = P(X_t \in A | X_0 = x)$$

for any $A \subset S$

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Theorem Let $X_t, t \ge 0$ be a stationary, reversible Markov chain on the finite-state space S, with π as the stationary distribution. Let λ be the second largest (in modulus) eigenvalue of the transition matrix P. Then (a) For all $t \ge 1$ and for any $i \in S$:

$$\sup_{A} \left| P^{t}(i,A) - \pi(A) \right| \leq \sqrt{\frac{1-\pi_{i}}{\pi_{i}}} \frac{|\lambda|^{t}}{2}$$

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(b) For all $t \ge 1$ and any $i \in S$:

$$\sup_{A} \left| P^{t}(i,A) - \pi(A) \right| \leq \sqrt{\frac{p_{ii}^{(2)}}{\pi_{i}}} |\lambda|^{t-1}$$

where $p_{ii}^{(2)}$ is the *i*th diagonal entry of P^2

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(d) For all $t \ge 1$ and any initial distribution μ :

$$\sup_{\mathcal{A}} |P_{\mu}(X_t \in \mathcal{A}) - \pi(\mathcal{A})| \leq \frac{|\lambda|^t}{2} \sqrt{\chi^2(\mu, \pi)}$$

Question What is the second largest eigenvalue for the Metropolis–Hastings algorithm?

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Eigenvalues of transition matrix corresponding to MH algo Suppose there are k states. Then setting c = 1/k, it can be shown that: if we label the states such that $\pi_1 \ge \pi_2 \ge \ldots \ge \pi_k$ then $\lambda_1 = 1$ and

$$\lambda_{l} = \frac{1}{k} \left[\sum_{j=l-1}^{k} \frac{\pi_{l-1} - \pi_{j}}{\pi_{l-1}} \right], l \ge 2$$

Homework Verify the formula for small values of *k*.